been received with regard to purchase of wet rice from the farmers of the State;

(b) if so, the details of the request so made; and

(c) the reasons for delay in giving permission to purchase wet rice from the farmers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Storage by FCI

1228. PROF P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India is storing foodgrains in private godowns rather than use the PSU Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) godowns available all over the country;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains stored in private godowns and CWC godowns in the last financial year;

(c) the reasons for favouring private godowns in this regard; and

(d) the details of steps proposed so as to ensure higher utilization of CWC godowns wherever they are available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir As on 31st May, 2006, out of the total hired storage capacity held by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the private godowns capacity is only to the extent of 8.7%. The details of the hired storage capacity by the FCI are as under:—

Position as on 31.5.2006
Figures in lakh MTs

Storage Capacity hired by the FCI	Capacity	Percentage
From Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)	15.79	15.6%
From State Warehousing Corporation (SWCs)/State Governments	76.85	75.7%
From Private parties	8.90	8.7%

(b) The details of the quantity of foodgrains stored in the private godowns and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) godowns during the last financial year i.e. 2005-2006, was:—

Central Warehousing Corporation	9.68* lakh tonnes
Private Godowns	7.58* lakh tonnes

* These are monthly average figures based on total turnover.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Directions have been issued to the field offices of Food Corporation of India to hire only Central Warehousing/State Warehousing Corporation's godowns and no private party godowns be hired without the prior permission of the Chairman and Managing Director.

CBI raids on FCI officials

1229. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has conducted raids on some States against FCI officials during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of investigations in each case; and

(d) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken to curb the corruption in FCI?